

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

No claims are currently being canceled.

Claims 1 and 2 are currently being amended.

Claims 9-14 are currently being added.

This amendment amends and adds claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-14 are now pending in this application.

Request for Acknowledgement of Information Disclosure Statements Previously Submitted to PTO:

Applicant respectfully requests that the PTO provide an initialed copy of the PTO SB/08 forms submitted with the Information Disclosure Statements filed on August 4, 2004 and on January 16, 2004, in the next correspondence to be sent to Applicant's representative.

Specification Amendments:

The specification has been amended to correct minor grammatical and typographical errors found in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1-2, 4-5 and 7-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,691,962 to Schwartz; and claims 3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwartz in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0027620 to Platz. These rejections are traversed with respect to the presently pending claims under rejection, for at least the reasons given below.

Presently pending independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the liquid crystal plate includes a first liquid crystal displaying section provided at a first portion of said liquid crystal plate and a second liquid crystal displaying section provided at a second portion

of said liquid crystal plate. Claim 1 has also been amended to recite a control driver which controls both the first and second liquid crystal displaying sections. Still further, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the dial plate includes first and second windows, with the first and second windows being aligned with the first and second liquid crystal displaying sections, respectively.

None of the cited art of record teaches or suggests the above-mentioned features of claim 1. In particular, Schwartz's wristwatch includes a single window for providing a liquid crystal display, and his liquid crystal displaying section has only a single liquid crystal displaying section. As such, Schwartz's wristwatch has a control driver that only controls the signal liquid crystal displaying section.

Claim 1, on the other hand, provides for a single control driver to control two separate liquid crystal displaying sections.

Since Schwartz does not disclose or suggest a control driver for controlling two different liquid crystal displaying sections, since Schwartz does not disclose or suggest having two separate windows on his dial, and since Schwartz does not disclose or suggest having two separate liquid crystal displaying sections on his liquid crystal plate, Schwartz cannot anticipate presently pending independent claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 1, along with claims 3-8 which depend from claim 1, are in allowable form (note that Platz does not rectify the above-mentioned shortcomings of Schwartz).

Claim 2 has been amended to place that claim in independent form, whereby the features recited in that claim are not disclosed or suggested by Schwartz. In particular, presently pending independent claim 2 recites that the polarizing plate is cut out at a portion thereof to form a window overlapping the optically transparent displaying section. This can be seen, for example, in Figure 3 of the drawings, whereby cutout 13b is provided on the polarizing plate 13.

In its rejection of claim 2, the Office Action asserts that "the cutout portion can be considered to be any element outside of area 13 in figure 2 [of Schwartz] as the polarizer is only formed over the liquid crystal displaying section (see fig. 5 element 14)." In Figure 2 of Schwartz, which shows a cut-away view of his wristwatch with the dial portion removed from that view, the liquid crystal display 14 is shown, whereby the polarizer plate 14a of that liquid

crystal display 14 corresponds to the top surface of the liquid crystal display 14 shown in that figure. The Office Action appears to consider the dashed area 23 in Figure 23 as signifying a hole or window in the top surface of the liquid crystal display 14, but that is not correct. Rather, as explained in column 3, lines 35-45 of Schwartz, dashed area 23 corresponds to a region corresponding to the digital indicia pattern 23, whereby the liquid crystal section of the liquid crystal plate of Schwartz that provides those digital indicia are provided directly beneath the polarizer 14. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Schwartz of providing a window or hole in the polarizer 14 in an area corresponding to the digital indicia pattern 23.

Accordingly, since Platz does not rectify the above-mentioned shortcomings of Schwartz, presently pending independent claim 2 is in allowable form.

New Claims:

New claims 9-14 have been added to recite the invention from a different perspective. New independent claim 9 is directed to the embodiment shown in Figure 10 of the drawings, whereby optical transparent member (e.g., element 123a in Figure 1) is provided on a holding portion of the frame, and whereby the optical transparent member comprises a colorless transparent material.

Such features as described above in claim 9 are not disclosed, taught or suggested by either Schwartz or by Platz. Claim 10 describes further features of the optical transparent member, whereby those features provide an additional basis for patentability of that claim. Claim 11 is directed to the disposition (substantially perpendicular) of the optical transparent member with respect to the optically transparent displaying section of the dialing plate, whereby such features are not disclosed, taught or suggested by either Schwartz or by Platz. Claim 12 is directed to the disposition (substantially perpendicular) of the overlapping edge of the liquid crystal displaying plate with respect to the optically transparent displaying section of the dialing plate, whereby such features are not disclosed, taught or suggested by either Schwartz or by Platz. Claim 13 is directed to the optically transparent displaying section having a generally circular arc shape and disposition of the cutout of the polarizing plate, whereby such features are not disclosed, taught or suggested by either Schwartz or by Platz. Claim 14 further recites a liquid crystal holding member for holding the peripheral edge, in which the holding member is cut out at a portion overlapping the overlapping edge

section as viewed from the front. Such features are not disclosed, taught or suggested by either Schwartz or by Platz.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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